

William Roberdeau Swift to Andrew Jackson, April 8, 1828, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

GENERAL W. R. SWIFT TO JACKSON.

New York, April 8, 1828.

Dear Sir, I have just now shipped on board Ship Dewitt Clinton for N. Orleans and addressed it to care of W. C Withers Esqr. of that place a Barrel Scuppernong Wine forwarded me by my friend Gen Lewis D Wilson of Tarborough;¹ Mr Withers is requested to expedite it to you, as a present from my friend Genl. W. and I wish it safe to hand.

¹ State senator in North Carolina for many years.

Having disposed of that, it may not be unacceptable to you to learn how we progress in our great state with regard to the important question now so interesting to our citizens. You will observe by the *Enquirer* (Noahs)² of yesterday the *very spirited* appeal of the Republican General Committee to their Republican brethren throughout the state. It will produce a good effect, and which it is but justice to Mr Noah to add was drawn up by himself, and by him recommended to the venerable chairman Capt. Bailey. Mr Edemons is very desirous the mode of election should be changed before the rising of our assembly to the General ticket system, being very sanguine of a large majority in your favor—this he told me a few days since and that he had written Mr Cambreleng on the subject with a view of operating on Mr Van Buren.³ Noah is less sanguine

² The New York *Enquirer* (afterwards *Courier and Enquirer*), edited by Mordecai M. Noah.

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3 John W. Edmonds, N. Y. state recorder; C. C. Cambreleng, M. C. from New York 1821–1839.

of so *large* a majority, but considers half the votes *at least* , under any circumstances *certain*.

The Morgan affair⁴ now revived for party purposes, and which there is little doubt Mr Clay has had a principal hand in, makes no little noise in our interior and requires to be managed with great delicacy—plans being on the tapis to cause in good time a serious re-action in our favor from this most unprincipled appeal to the worst passions of the multitude, and as a mason myself, cannot conceive how Mr C. can reconcile it to his feelings and conscience as one of the craft likewise, in taking any part in the corrupt measure. In N Jersey the Chairman of the Central Committee, calculates with great certainty upon a majority in our favor of 1200 to 2000. The opponents to the present administration require to be very active in that state. My feelings were much gratified in finding at Trenton, Princeton and N. Brunswick so many, and so decided in their expressions with the great majority of our country. I only found one exception and that at Princeton. At Elizabethtown and Newark, they were far from being so unanimous. The last winter I passed with your influential and zealous advocate and my sterling friend Jno Gray Blount of Washing[ton] NC. That state is safe enough. I was asked by a mutual friend of Mr Gastons⁵ and mine in passing through Baltimore what had caused the change in Mr. G's sentiments, the gentleman declaring that at his table two years past he warmly espoused your cause. It matters little, as his influence is *very, very* limited in N. C., and the flourish he made was only intended to operate on other states.

4 The Antimasonic agitation respecting William Morgan.

5 William Gaston, M. C. from North Carolina 1813–1817, and an eminent judge.

I have been prolix, and quite unreserved in my present communication, which I trust you will excuse and attribute to the honest zeal I hope I feel in the pending contest. Be

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pleased to present my respects to Mr. McLemore. I should be much gratified by your acknowledgement when leisure permits of receipt this letter, remaining Dear Sir very respectfully and faithfully yours,